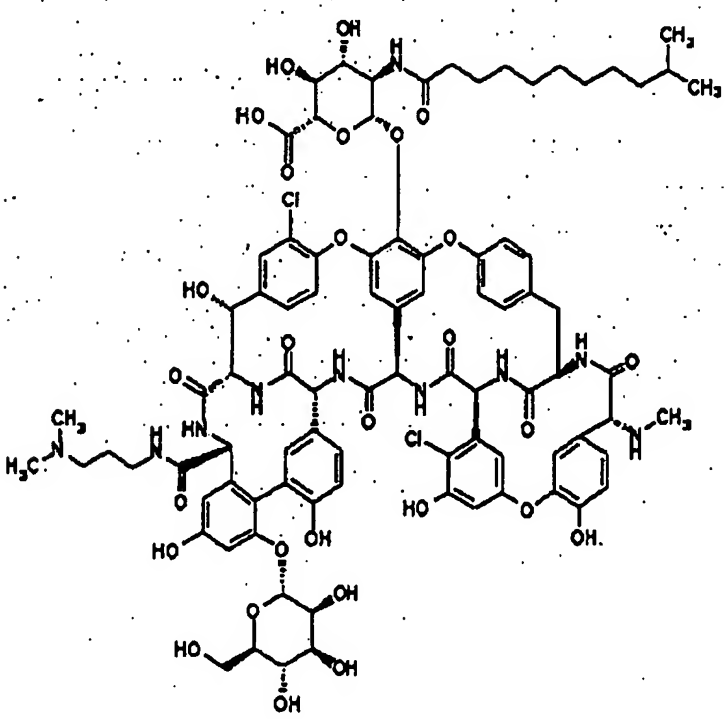
Molecule of the Month

NOVEMBER 2000

V-Glycopeptide

V-Glycopeptide (BI-397) is a second-generation semisynthetic glycopeptide antibiotic belonging to the same class as vancomycin. The compound is under development at Versicor for the intravenous treatment of serious systemic infections caused by Gram-positive cocci, especially multidrug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *S. epidermidis* (MRSE). V-Glycopeptide has several advantages over vancomycin, most notably its increased potency against Gram-positive bacteria including MRSA and MRSE and an improved dosing regimen. Interim results from an ongoing phase I pharmacokinetic and safety trial were presented at the recent ICAAC meeting in Toronto. The antibiotic was well tolerated in healthy volunteers administered single or multiple i.v. infusions of V-glycopeptide at all dose levels tested. Serum bactericidal activity was evident within 24 hours of administration of a 360-mg dose, indicating the feasibility of once-daily dosing. Vancomycin, in contrast, must be administered two to four times daily. Versicor, which has licensed North American development rights from Biosearch Italia, plans to initiate phase II testing of this novel antibiotic early next year.



*Each month this section highlights a different drug molecule or molecules. Selection is bas d on the following criteria:

- the originality of the chemical structure
- the singularity of the mechanism of action
- the drug's progression through the R&D pipeline
- its use in a new indication or where current therapies are inexistent or have proved unsatisfactory.

PREVIOUS MONTH NEXT MONTH